

REMARKS

Claims 2-15, 17-31, 33-35, 37, and 40-56 are pending. Of these, claims 2, 4, and 25 are independent and claims 48-53 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 16, 32, 36, 38 and 39 are cancelled. Claims 2, 4, 17, 18, 20-22, 25, and 40-45 have been amended by virtue of this amendment, and new claims 54-56 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 2, 3, 25, 30, 31, 40-42, 45, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,392,250 to Aziz et al. (Aziz '250). Claims 4, 9-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0132704 to Aziz et al. (Aziz '704). Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '704 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,925,980 to So et al. (So). Claims 18, 19, 22, 24, 33-35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '704 in view of Aziz '250. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '704 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,281,489 to Mori et al. (Mori). Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '704 and Aziz '250 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,566,807 to Fujita et al. (Fujita). Claims 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '250 in view of So. Claims 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '250 in view of Mori. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '250 in view of Fujita.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aziz '250, Applicant respectfully submits that Aziz '250 does not disclose or properly suggest all of the limitations of claim 2. For example, claim 2 recites, "A luminescent device comprising an organic luminescent element comprising ... a mixed region in which said two compounds are mixed ... wherein said two compounds are a host and a third material is doped as a guest in only a portion of said mixed region."

In contrast, Aziz '250 discloses "a mixed region 38 comprising a mixture of a hole transport material and an electron transport material ... (and) ... at least one selected dopant ..." (See Aziz '250, column 5, lines 11-28). That is, Applicant Aziz '250 does not provide any

disclosure or suggestion that the "selected dopant" is "a guest in only a portion of said mixed region," as recited in claim 2.

Similarly, independent claim 4 recites a "mixed region in the organic compound layer (that) comprises a third organic compound different from said first and second organic compounds, and wherein said third organic compound is doped as a guest in only a portion of the mixed region." Also, independent claim 25 recites, "a mixed region in the organic compound layer, where said first organic compound and said second organic compound are mixed, wherein said organic compound layer comprises a third organic compound different from said first and second organic compounds, and wherein the third organic compound is doped as a guest in only a portion of the mixed region." Neither Aziz '250 nor Aziz '704, nor any proper combination of the two, discloses or suggests at least the above claim features of independent claims 4 and 25.

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 2, 4, and 25 are allowable, so that dependent claims 3, 5-15, 17-24, 26-31, 33-35, 37, 40-47, and 54-56 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Additionally, with respect to the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '704 in view of Mori, and with respect to the rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz '250 in view of Mori, the Office Action takes the position at page 10, lines 15-18 and at page 12, lines 4-5, respectively, that the "...third organic compounds such as oxadiazole compounds as disclosed by Mori inherently possess larger energy difference between a highest occupied molecular orbital and a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital than first and second organic compounds."

In response, Applicant respectfully disagrees, and (should the application not be passed to allowance) requests a specific explanation of the reason why the above-quoted feature is thought to be inherently disclosed in Aziz '250, Aziz '704, Mori, or any of the cited references. In particular, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify a specific portion or portions of identified one(s) of the cited references which are thought to provide the alleged inherent feature(s), and provide rationale as to why the feature(s) is thought to be inherent.

Applicant : Satoshi Seo et al.
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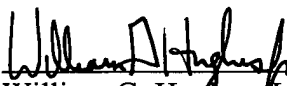
Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-291001 / US5434

Based on the above, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby requested in the Examiner's next official communication.

Enclosed is a \$880.00 check (including \$110.00 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee and \$770.00 for the Request for Continued Examination fee). Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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